

Rotary Park kayak launch area grooming project

WI DNR Info: [Mechanized aquatic plant management | Waterway protection | Wisconsin DNR](#)

Aeration systems can help increase the localized dissolved oxygen levels in the water column and circulate water to prevent algal buildup. These systems typically require placing a single base or tubular structure on the lakebed to push air or water through the water column so that water is continually moving, avoiding stagnant water flow conditions. This has the potential to push algal mats to other parts of the lake or river. This can adversely impact other riparian owners and members of the public who may be recreating on the water. Although the department does not advocate for aerators, a permit is not required to install or maintain these devices so long as the following conditions are met:

- the prop is attached to a legal structure that has either received a permit or is exempt from needing a permit;
- the mixing action does not disturb the lake bottom; and
- the prop does not cause problems for lake users or neighbors.

If any of the above conditions are not met, visit [water permits](#) to apply for a [miscellaneous structure permit](#).

Options:

Self-contained floating solar-powered surface aerator

- Pros: inexpensive, no construction of solar panels needed, no external plug-in electric power needed, no permits needed, can be tethered to the kayak/canoe launch, can be removed off-season
- Cons: covers a very small area and may need multiple, easy to “walk off”, may not be too effective clearing out plants like duckweed
- [Amazon.com: Lewisia Solar Floating Pond Aerator 2.5W Solar Powered Air Pump with Air Hose and Bubble Stones Pond Aerator Bubble Oxygenator : Patio, Lawn & Garden](#)

AquaThruster (possible Rotary Club project)

- Pros: can be mounted to kayak/canoe launch, effective in mitigating algae and duckweed, can be removed during off-season
- Cons: requires wired electric power, more tedious install/removal, starting base cost is usually between \$1,300 & \$1,500
- [AquaThruster™ | Lake Muck Blower | Underwater Fan](#)

Manual pool, lake & pond skimmer

- Pros: inexpensive (unless mechanical), not a fixture at the park, won't affect non-targeted plants
- Cons: requires staff labor, limited range (unless mechanical)
- [Amazon.com : U.S. Pool Supply Swimming Pool 5 Foot Leaf Skimmer Net with 4 Aluminum Pole Sections - 6" Deep Ultra Fine Mesh Netting Bag Basket for Fast Cleaning of The Finest Debris - 60" Long, Clean Spas, Ponds : Patio, Lawn & Garden](#)